

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

~~1-36~~ 1-27. (Canceled).

~~37~~ 28. (Currently Amended) A method for treating, preventing or ameliorating an immune system deficiency, comprising administering to a subject an oligonucleotides containing an unmethylated cytosine-guanine to treat, prevent or ameliorate the immune system deficiency, wherein the oligonucleotide is stabilized.

~~38~~ 29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

~~39~~ 30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~38~~ 29, wherein the phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

~~40~~ 31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is linked to a nucleic acid delivery complex.

~~41~~ 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a cationic lipid.

~~42~~ 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the oligonucleotide is covalently linked to the nucleic acid delivery complex.

~~43~~ 34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the oligonucleotide is ionically linked to or encapsulated in the nucleic acid delivery complex.

~~44~~ 35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a sterol.

~~45~~ 36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises 5'-TCAACGTT-3', 5'-TGACGTT-3', or 5'TGACGTC3'.

~~46~~ 37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the subject is human.

~~47~~ 38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered orally.

~~48~~ 39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered by injection.

~~49~~ 40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~48~~ 39, wherein the injection is subcutaneous, intravenous, or parenteral.

~~50~~ 41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered transdermally.

~~51~~ 42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28 wherein the oligonucleotide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~52~~ 43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is 8-40 nucleotides in length.

~~53~~ 44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the unmethylated cytosine-guanine is flanked by two 5' purines and two 3' pyrimidines.

54 45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises 5' X₁X₂CGX₃X₄ 3', wherein C and G are unmethylated, X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ are nucleotides and a GCG trinucleotide sequence is not present at or near the 5' and 3' termini.

55 46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 28, wherein the oligonucleotide includes at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs.

56 47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~55~~ 46, wherein at least one of the at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs is not palindromic.